failing continuously for the last seven years through want of water and causing loss both to Government and the people alike. To remove the grievance, he requested that the proposed Pattanamkal which was intended to supply water to those parts should be constructed without delay.

A large area of garden lands under the Kodayar channels had been converted into wet lands, and an equally extensive area was awaiting such conversion. But, as the water supplied by the channels was not sufficient for the purposes of cultivation, the crops often suffered by *karivu*. That could be avoided by increasing the capacity of the Pechipara Reservoir by raising the height of the dam by 5 feet and by widening the channels. The Member also pleaded for the speedy construction of the channels originally contemplated for distributing the water from the Left Bank Channel.

He then referred to certain water-logged fields within the area commanded by the project and observed that, in spite of the protests of their owners, the lands were charged with water cess. He requested that (1) the cess on those lands should not be collected till the water-logging was removed, or (2) immediate action should be taken to remove the water-logging, or (3) remission of assessment should be allowed for *azhukichetham* till the water-logging was removed. Some roads had also to be opened to provide the ryots with facilities to take manure, cattle, &c., to the paddy fields. Greater facilities should be afforded for the removal of green manure from the forests. It was also necessary that cattle breeding should be specially encouraged by providing grazing lands wherever possible.

A Committee on the lines suggested by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai, Member, Kalkulam taluk, should be formed to enquire into the measures to be adopted to promote agriculture in the State and to remove all obstacles in its way.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

59. Grievances of the ryots of the Vilavankod taluk and suggestions for remedying them.

Mr. N. Sankaranarayana Pillai (Member, Vilavankod taluk) represented that, though the Kuzhithura river was running through the taluk, there was no means of utilising its water for irrigation purposes. There were some irrigation tanks in the taluk. But, when some years ago the Right Bank Channel of the Kodayar Project was proposed to be cut, the annual allotment for the maintenance of the tanks was stopped. Since that time, crops were continuously failing for want of timely supply of water. He understood that there was no likelihood of the Right Bank Channel being taken up for construction, as the water in the Pechipara Reservoir was not sufficient for irrigating even the area commanded by the Left Bank Channel. He, therefore, requested that the Mannanpara dam near Kakachal about 6 miles down the Pechipara Reservoir might be properly re-constructed and a channel cut to the Vilavankod taluk to take off water to the paddy lands thirsting for water. He estimated the cost at 10 lakhs of rupees. If that was not possible, the old irrigation tanks should be repaired and an annual allotment provided for their maintenance.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

60. Agricultural needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk.

Mr. A. Kesava Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) gave a lengthy description of the economic poverty of the people and traced it to the failure of crops due to want of water, the gradual silting up of some of the irrigation tanks and their conversion into garden lands—either registered as holdings or encroachments—and the consequent inability of storing water for purposes of cultivation. The following were mentioned as the agricultural needs of the taluk:—

(1) The abandonment of the Right Bank Channel under the Kodayar Irrigation Scheme was a source of grievance to them.

(2) In the first group of *pakuthies* represented by the Member, there was one important *chira* and 805 tanks. On inspection it would be found that not only

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